

### **REMARKS**

Claims 42, 44-46, and 49-51 have been cancelled. Claims 43, 47, 48, 52-53 and 54 remain in the application. Each of the claims remaining in the application have been amended to overcome rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claims 42, 49 and 54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 3,563,183 to *Rich*.

Claim 46 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Rich* in view of United States Patent No. 2,767,877 to *Newsom*.

Claims 44-45 and 51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Rich* in view of United States Patent No. 6,188,039 to *Gass*.

Claims 44-45 and 54 stand rejected over *Rich* in view of the teachings of the official notice and that of *Gass*.

Claim 50 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Rich* in view of United States Patent No. 2,562,336 to *Selden*.

The Examiner has indicated claims 47-48 and 54 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, as set forth in the Office Action. Furthermore, the Examiner indicated claims 43 and 52 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, as set forth in the Office Action.

Claim 43 has been amended to include each of the limitations set forth in independent claim 42 and, furthermore, to overcome rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and, therefore, is believed to be presented in a condition for allowance.

Claim 47 has been amended to include the limitations set forth in independent claim 44 and, furthermore, has been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, and, therefore, is believed to be presented in a condition for allowance.

Claim 48 has been amended to include each of the limitations set forth in independent claim 44, and has been amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and, therefore, is believed to be presented in a condition for allowance.

Claim 52 has been amended to include each of the limitations set forth in independent claim 49, and has been amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, and, therefore, is believed to be presented in a condition for allowance.

Finally, claim 54 has been amended to include each of the limitations set forth in independent claim 49, and has been amended to overcome each of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, and therefore, is believed to be presented in a condition for allowance.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the application, as amended, is now presented in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. Further and favorable reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action is hereby requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 08-2789 for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayments regarding this Amendment.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.**



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**CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING**

I hereby certify that the enclosed **Amendment** is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee," Mailing Label No. **EV489349436US** and addressed to Mail Stop Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on **October 4, 2004.**

  
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Tracy L. Smith

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